



BRITCHAM TAKES A LEAD ON CLIMATE CHANGE OPPORTUNITIES

BritCham took an unprecedented lead in 2009 by assembling an illustrious group of speakers drawn from government, major local and international business and industry, environmental experts and aid agencies for their Climate Change Conference at Le Meridien on Tuesday. More than 100 delegates discussed ways to combat global warming which is leading to more **extreme storms, rising sea-levels, melting glaciers and bigger natural disasters world-wide**

One of several key messages from the Conference was ***industries that generate greenhouse emissions in Indonesia could focus their efforts on improving the environment as a way of helping them through the global economic crisis.***

Speakers described how environmental initiatives can be rewarded by cash incentive schemes devised under the Kyoto Protocol to help tackle climate change.

British Ambassador HE Martin Hatfull said although low carbon policies are at the center of recovery - action was needed by everyone at national, international as well as at local levels.

British Embassy Climate Change and Economy First Secretary Dr Rob Daniel warned if global greenhouse emissions go unchecked in the short term, a long term consequence would be that food and water supplies would shrink with areas becoming wastelands.

European Union Ambassador HE Julian Wilson said there was already a real partnership with Indonesia and the country was an important ally that had a unique capacity to push for global action.

Member of the Indonesian President Advisory council for Environment and Sustainable Development Prof. Emil Salim said following the Bali Climate Change conference last year there was an air of optimism which has been dampened by the economic crisis. He said a public/private partnership to reduce carbon emissions had now become crucial. He said the developed world had to take the lead as it was responsible for the biggest emissions but there should be a partnership based on a "kita" (we all together) outlook rather than "kamu" (you without us).

He said Indonesia had rich resources but did not have the key to open them. The key is the developed countries that have the technology - but the partnership had to be based on trust with both parties committed to deal with climate change and sustainable development.

Head of the BritCham conference team David Braithwaite spelled out that "**now was a time of opportunity**". The conference emphasized the industries that generate emissions such as oil,



gas, chemical, fertilizers, cement, paper, textiles, palm oil, municipal and agricultural waste can off-set the cost of adopting environmentally-friendly methods of production by earning credits. Such systems also reduced operational, maintenance and repair costs while by-products generated income.

Environmental expert Dr. Scott Younger, a key member of BritCham's cross-sector committee said the climate change debate had raised the profile of renewable clean energy. Although solar power from the sun was in its infancy – it would become the energy source of the future and the so-called “ring of fire” provides potential to tap into volcanic and other geo-thermal outlets. He said whilst products from agriculture was still controversial as it competes with food provision, that waste from growing food has the potential for expansion. He said Indonesia was well-endowed with fossil fuels as well as renewable sources.

The Conference was opened by British Ambassador HE Martin Hatfull who set the tone of optimism by stating, “This low carbon recovery path has the potential to generate significant jobs and growth, as well as improving our energy security and reducing our emissions. So government and business must work together to drive investment in a low carbon recovery – which is why the (British) Prime Minister has called for a business-led Task Force to deliver practical recommendations for a low carbon recovery ahead of the London Summit in April.” It was later noted that the UK had led the way by being the first country to pass a Climate Change Act.

Food & Agriculture Sector Group Chairman, David Knight concluded the Conference by confirming a commitment to push ahead with a series of more specific workshops that would focus on some of the key issues.